

Yo La Tengo return on the heels of their new release *May I Sing With Me* (Alias), which finds them doing rocking originals (as opposed to their last primarily acoustic album of covers) surrounded by swirling feedback guitar with delightful nonstop energy. No matter how loud this band gets, they never forsake melody letting each song create its own mood. Along with dreamy landscapes for crazed lead work, there's occasional nods to the Velvet Underground ("Always Something"), and rave-ups ("86-Second Blowout"), but everything is performed with a depth of conviction combined with a sense of fun that makes them quite likable. Add to this a knowledge of music and a spirit of abandon, and you have one intelligent band worth checking out. The Low Road just back from a Southern excursion that included an appearance at Austin's South By Southwest Festival opens. Be there!

Yo La Tengo with the Low Road: Thurs., Mar. 19 at 10 p.m. at J.C. Dobbs, 304 South St., 928-1943.

--Peter Brown